MS 11050

R.C.M. Lond.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN MUSICIANS (INC.) held on Tuesday, 22nd February, 1972, at Flat 14, 96-100 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 7FA (by kind invitation of Barbara Bendixson) at 10.0 a.m.

Present:- Joan Davies (in the Chair)

Marian Attwood	Anna Berenska	Dora Hanes
Barbara Bendixson	Muriel Dawson	Cynthia Isserlis
Margaret Benselin	Gwyneth George	Carolyn Kimball
	Eleanor Retallack	

In attendance - Grace Barrons Richardson

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from the President and from Judith Baxter, Rosemary Brown, Eleanor Richards, Betty Roe ~~and~~ Joan Littlejohn + Delia Wolfson

THE MINUTES of the previous meeting held on 12th January had been distributed. Dora Hanes asked that her apology for absence, which had been duly sent, be included. Amendments submitted by the President were read, agreed and incorporated. The Hon. Treasurer corrected the figure of the cost of printing the membership list. The Minutes were then approved and signed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: (i) Master-Class

Gwyneth George had not received replies from the prospective masters, but it was understood that Andre Previn had not a free date for a long time and that the visit of the Tortelier family in April would be too short to permit of arranging a class.

The Chairman reported on a conversation with Antony Hopkins, who would be happy to help the Society. Eleanor Retallack suggested that this should be on general musicianship and public performance for soloists and small ensembles. After discussion the order of the title was inverted and it was agreed that the ensembles could be vocal or instrumental. It was agreed that the Chairman should return to Mr. Hopkins and ask for a Saturday between late April and early June and inform the Acting Hon. Secretary, in order that the necessary forms could be prepared and publicity arranged.

The Chairman further reported that the Royal Overseas League would be willing to house the Society's pianoforte in one of their halls. Members received this information with pleasure and gratitude. Joan Davies added that it would probably be used once a month. The Acting Hon. Secretary suggested that a hire charge should be asked of users other than the Society.

If the Chairman found that Mr. Hopkins expected a fee, she was authorised to negotiate up to a maximum of £60. The fees fixed for forty minute lessons were £3 for soloists and £5 for ensembles. The fee for listeners was not fixed. If it should be necessary to hold auditions prior to the class, the following were appointed to the panel - the Chairman, Marian Attwood, Gwyneth George, Veronica Mansfield and Ivor Walsworth.

(ii) Mme. Loriod - the Chairman had not yet received a reply to her enquiry.

(iii) Mlle. Rainier - the Chairman indicated Mlle. Rainier's interest in the Society, pointed out that a fee would have to be offered to her and suggested discussing this with Mr. Cruft, Arts Council of Great Britain. This was agreed.

(iv) Music legacy from the late Murray Lambert

Carolyn Kimball reported that she had collected four large boxes. They included a quanitity of violin and chamber music and some obscure oratorios. It was agreed to arrange for an auction of these at one of the forthcoming events.

FUTURE EVENTS: (i) The Chairman reported that Audrey Strange, Music Adviser to the Royal Overseas League, had had a letter from a Swedish girls' choir about to visit britain, expressing readiness to sing without a fee to a club or society. The date offered was 19th May, time 1.0 p.m. It was agreed to accept this opportunity to organise an audience in conjunction with the R.O.L. and the Acting Hon. Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. H. Williams, Scheelegatan 6A, 731 0.0. Köping, Sweden, and ask for details of the programme. It was suggested that a member of the S.W.M. should take part.

(ii) The Chairman mentioned the interesting possibilities offered by Daphne Oram in her specialisation in electronic music, suggested that an event featuring this might well be arranged in the Purcell Room and offered to discuss the possibility of applying for Arts Council grant for it when she saw Mr. Cruft. This was agreed.

(iii) Other possible events suggested were a week-end fixture at Pevensey and a lecture by Dame Eva Turner.

(iv) Members wished to arrange a concert by Jennifer Bowring and Marisa Robles and the Chairman undertook to make the first enquiries.

(v) Eleanor Retallack suggested that a further Ivimey concert be arranged to include a recently auditioned singer and a wind ensemble. The Chairman considered that (a) an established artist should also be included in order to draw an audience and (b) that pressure should be brought to bear on the young artists engaged to make real efforts to bring in an audience. Members agreed. The Hon. Treasurer said that the Society would be unable to afford a number of fees for such a concert, even at an expenses level. The Chairman was willing to play without a fee. Eleanor Retallack considered that in the present circumstances all members performing at an Ivimey concert should be willing to waive the fee.

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT: Muriel Dawson was pleased to report the receipt of £125 arrears of subscriptions. The balance in current account was £262; of this £115 had been brought forward from the previous year. There was now very little money owing to the Society.

REFERENDUM: Muriel Dawson kindly passed further forms to the Acting Hon. Secretary, who revised her figures and gave members the following results:-

IN FAVOUR OF CONTINUING - 141
IN FAVOUR OF DISSOLUTION - 119

The Acting Hon. Secretary reminded members that, in the form agreed by Council, it was made plain that members not returning their forms would be deemed to agree to dissolution. The total membership figure she assessed at 546; 260 forms had been received; therefore 286 was presumed to be an addition to those already declared as favouring dissolution.

Members received this information with very great disappointment. The Hon. Treasurer made two points, (a) technically only paid-up members should have been sent voting forms and (b) the Society's present status as an incorporated company under the Companies Act could be dissolved at an Extraordinary General Meeting and, if a majority of those present and voting wished it to continue in a other form, a resolution effecting this could be put.

It was agreed that the Council should hold a special meeting to discuss the suggestions made and the dates agreed were 13th or 14th March, the Hon. Treasurer to find out whether Judith Baxter and Joan Littlejohn could manage either date, and members to telephone the Hon. Treasurer to ascertain which date had been chosen.

The Acting Hon. Secretary was instructed to write to Mrs. Feldman, who had been such a loyal and helpful member and whose reply indicated that she was ill.

It was agreed that the Hon. Treasurer and Acting Hon. Secretary should find out the procedures necessary to disincorporate the Society, draft the necessary papers, submit them to the Chairman and then to the next meeting of the Council.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Acting Hon. Secretary reported receipt of the following letters:-

(i) from Newark Technical College regarding a course for piano tuners, etc.
(ii) from the Women's Group on Public Welfare of the National Council of Social Service, seeking renewal of the free insertion of the name of the Society in its list of women's organisations: this was agreed.
(iii) from Brecker, Grossmith & Co., offering office accommodation at a rent

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of £45,000 per annum.
(iv) from the National Joint Committee of Working Women's Organisations regarding equal pay.
(v) from Miss C. M. Cuzner and Miss B. M. Jennings, offering their services as Hon. Secretary. Miss Cuzner was presently secretary of a preparatory school trust and would retire in May; Miss Jennings had recently retired from the staff of the Conservative Central Office. Miss Cuzner would move to Weybridge; Miss Jennings lived in London. Both were members of the S.W.M. The Acting Hon. Secretary had telephoned both applicants and ascertained that they were willing to let their applications go forward even if the result of the referendum meant that the work would be reduced to the organising of an annual prize or some such activity. Miss Richardson was instructed to write further temporising and explanatory letters until the position of the Society and arrangements for the Extraordinary General Meeting, etc. were clearer. Then interviews could be arranged in the usual way.

MEMBERSHIP: The Hon. Membership Secretary had received some applications and proposed to write explanatory letters deferring action until after the E.G.M. had clarified the future of the Society, but welcoming attendance meantime at any events arranged. This was agreed.

Resignations were accepted from:- Peggy Parks
M. Bridger
Ruth Chappell
Joan Hughes
Elizabeth Burnett
Felicity Young
Leonard Smith
Marguerite Deans
Christine Williams
John Wilkinson
Roger Vignoles
Sybil Weevers
Mary Morton Crouch

OPERA BLOCK BOOKINGS: Marian Attwood reported receipt of a n offer from Covent Garden of tickets at a reduced price for "Simon Boccanegra" on February 29th, March 6th and March 14th. It was agreed that she should accept for the 6th March.

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT ORDINARY BUSINESS MEETING: It was agreed to hold this on ~~Tuesday~~ Monday, 20th March, at 7.0 p.m. Barbara Bendixson kindly put her flat at the Council's disposal and this offer was gratefully accepted.